A. PROJECT INFORMATION

<u>Title</u>: Merced River Greenemeyer Sand Pit River Corridor Restoration

Compliance Tracking Number: 2006-010 PEPC Project Number: 13932

Location: Mariposa County, California; El Portal

NPS Project Proponent: Resources Management Science, Lisa Acree

Partner Project Proponent: None,

B. COMPLIANCE DETERMINATION

Project Proponent

(3)

cc:

Attachments

This project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 E (4) - Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. Environmental impacts will be minor or less when the project is implemented with the conditions stipulated under **Project Mitigations and Conditions** in **Section I** at the end of the attached *Environmental Screening Form*.

Additional supporting information for this determination and the stipulated conditions can be found in the following attachments (when checked):

	orm (XXX)
☐ Wilderness Minimum Requirement Anal	ysis
☑ Wild and Scenic River Section 7 Determ	ination
Park Management Terms and Condition	u.s
Other:	
C. DECISION	
am familiar, I am categorically excluding the de	nation in the statutory compliance file, with which I escribed project from further NEPA analysis. No 12 3.5 or 3.6 apply and the action is fully described in
//R. Kevin Cann//	1/26/06
for Michael J. Tollefson	Date
Original: Statutory Compliance File	

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Yosemite National Park P.O. Box 577 Yosemite, California 95389

IN REPLY REFER TO: L7617 (YOSE)

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To: Lisa Acree, Project Manager

From: Superintendent, Yosemite National Park

Subject: Notice to Proceed, Merced River Greenemeyer Sand Pit River Corridor Restoration

Your proposed project is an action that has been determined to result in no measurable environmental effects. It is therefore categorically excluded from further National Environmental Policy Act analysis under Categorical Exclusion: DO12 3.4 *E* (4) - Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.

Necessary compliance coordination has been completed regarding the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act, as applicable. This project clearance is valid providing that you adhere to the conditions stipulated in the enclosed *Categorical Exclusion Form* and associated documents when implementing this project.

//R. Kevin Cann//	1/26/06
for Michael J. Tollefson	Date
Enclosure (with attachments)	
cc: Statutory Compliance File	

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: Yosemite NP

Project Title: Merced River Greenemeyer Sand Pit River Corridor Restoration

Project Number: 13932

Project Type: Ecological Restoration

Project Location: County, State: Mariposa, California District, Section: El Portal, Greenemeyer

Sand Pit

Project Manager: Lisa Acree

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

YOSE proposes to restore eight acres of highly-valued low-elevation floodplain habitat along the Merced River. Over the past three decades, YOSE used the floodplain site for sand extraction and maintenance staging. Today, fill and spoil materials fill all but one braided river channel, significantly obstructing flow. YOSE will remove artificial fill and revegetate with native vegetation. The result will be a riparian floodplain community with a functional network of braided river channels. Riparian habitat at the project site is particularly valued because California has lost 89% of its riparian woodlands, and areas below 3,300 feet have the greatest loss of riparian vegetation in the Sierra Nevada.

Artificial fill and spoils will be hauled outside the park. The exact quantity of fill is unknown. A technical request is in place with the NPS Water Resources Division to help determine the volume of artificial fill that would be removed.

Table B1 - Background Information

	9	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1.	Did NPS staff conduct a site visit? If yes, list attendees. If no, explain.				Staff are familiar with the site.
2a.	Is the project providing compliance for an action associated with but not covered by an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.); OR				
	Is the project in an approved plan? (Identify the plan and provide a section or page citation.		\boxtimes		
2c.	Is the project consistent with that plan?			\boxtimes	
2d.	Is the Plan's CE, FONSI, or ROD current?			\boxtimes	
3a.	Are there any interested or affected parties?		\boxtimes		
3b.	Has a diligent effort been made to communicate with them?				
4a.	Are there any affected agencies or tribes?	\boxtimes			US BLM & ACOE; CA RWQCB
4b.	Has consultation been completed?	\boxtimes			Consultations are ongoing

Table B2 – Environmental Screening Form Attachments (provide Attachment letter—A, B, etc.)

		Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1.	Maps: 2 required (vicinity map & site map)	\boxtimes			Vicinity Map, Attachment A,
2.	Drawings (e.g., design, construction)		\boxtimes		
3.	Site Plans		\boxtimes		
4.	Photographs		\boxtimes		
5.	Non-NEPA/NHPA Approvals (Explain)		\boxtimes		
6.	Other (Explain)		\boxtimes		

C. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL RESOURCE EFFECTS

	e any impacts possible on the following ources?	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1.	Geologic resources: soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc	X			Artificial fill would be removed; natural streambed characteristics would be restored.
2.	From geohazards		X		
3.	Air quality	X			Negligible; temporary during construction.
4.	Soundscapes	X			Negligible; temporary during construction.
5.	Water quality or quantity	X			Negligible; Work to be done under CA RWQCB permit.
6.	Stream flow characteristics	X			Natural flow characteristics would be restored.
7.	Marine or estuarine resources			X	
8.	Floodplains or wetlands	X			Natural floodplain and riparian characteristics wi be restored
9.	Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use		X		
	Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine		X		
	Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat		X		
12.	Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites	X			Yosemite is a World Heritage Site. This project will have "no adverse effect;" see attached XXX.
	Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat		X		
	Unique or important fish or fish habitat	X			Natural stream channel characteristics will be restored
15.	Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	X			Mitigated: potential for construction equipment to be brought into park; see Mitigations & Conditions, below.
16.	Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.		X		
17.	Visitor experience, aesthetic resources	X			Natural stream characteristics will be restored
18.	Cultural resources including cultural landscapes, ethnographic resources		X		
19.	Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure		X		
20.	Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.		X		
21.	Energy resources		X		
22.	Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies		X		
	Resource, including energy, conservation potential		X		
24.	Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.		X		
25.	Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity		X		
26	Other important environment resources (e.g.		X		

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

If	implemented, would the proposed action:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
	Have material adverse effects on public health or		X		Mitigated: see condition 1, below.
2.	safety? Have adverse effects on such unique characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the National Register of Natural Landmarks?		X		Project will restore natural stream channel, floodplain, and riparian characteristics; see also Section F, National Historic Preservation Act Checklist, and attached XXX.
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects?		X		
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
6.	Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
7.	Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?		X		
8.	Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X		
9.	Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?		X		
10.	Threaten to violate a federal, state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
11.	Involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA sec. 102(2)(E)?		X		
12.	Have a disproportionate, significant adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898)?		X		
13.	Restrict access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?		X		
14.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of federally listed noxious weeds (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?		X		Mitigated; see condition below.
15.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of non-native invasive species or actions that may promote the introduction, growth or expansion of the range of non-native invasive species (EO 13112)?		X		Mitigated; see condition 2, below.
16.	Require a permit from a federal, state, or local agency to proceed, unless the agency from which the permit is required agrees that a CE is appropriate?		X		CE issued pending CA RWQCB & US ACOE concurrence.
17.	Have the potential for significant impact as indicated by a federal, state, or local agency or Indian tribe?		X		
18.	Have the potential to be controversial because of disagreement over possible environmental effects?		X		
19.	Have the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values?		X		

Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:

- 1. Submit an accident prevention plan to the park Safety Office for review and approval before starting work.
- 2. Thoroughly clean any equipment or materials brought to the worksite from outside of the park or El Portal Administrative Site to prevent the introduction of non-native invasive plants or federally listed noxious weeds.

E. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES CHECKLIST

Within the area of potential effect, are there: Yes No N/A Data Needed to Determine/No	otes
1. Listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (Federal or State)?	
2. Species of special concern (Federal or State)?	
3. Park rare plants or vegetation?	
4. Potential habitat for any special-status species listed above?	
If "yes" to any of the above questions, a Special-Status Species Checklist must be completed and attached	
Comments, Mitigations and Conditions:	
1. None	
E NATIONAL HIGHORIG PRESERVATION A CT. CHECKLI ICT.	
F. NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CHECKLIST	
Within the area of potential effect: Yes No N/A Data Needed to Determine/Not	es
 Will there be ground disturbance? Artificial fill will be removed Are there any archeological sites? 	
2 Are there any Netive American Indian	
traditional cultural resources?	
4 Is the project within the boundary of an	
archeological or historic landscape or Would not affect known cultural resonance attached XXX.	ources;
district?	
5a. Is there a National Historic Landmark?	
5b. Is there a structure(s) on the park's <i>List of Classified Structures</i> ?	
5c. Is there a historic property with a DOE and	
concurrence by the SHPO or a completed \square	
National Register form?	
5d. Is there a cultural property requiring review	
under NHPA, Section 106?	
6. Would there be alteration of a structure or cultural landscape covered by 5a-d, above?	
If "yes" to any of the above, then an Assessment of Effects form (YOSE-XXX) must be completed and att	ached.
Mitigations and Conditions:	
1. None	
G. WILDERNESS ACT CHECKLIST	
Is the proposed project: Yes No N/A Data Needed to Determine/Not	es
1. Within designated Wilderness?	
2. Within a Potential Wilderness Addition?	
If "yes" to either of the above, then a Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis must be completed and attack	ched.
Mitigations and Conditions: 1. None	

H. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT CHECKLIST

Does the proposed project:	Yes	No	N/A	Data Needed to Determine/Notes			
1. Fall within a wild and scenic river corridor? If 'yes', name the river(s)	\boxtimes			Merced Wild and Scenic River, El Portal Segment			
2. Fall within the bed and banks AND affect the free-flow of the river?	\boxtimes			Removal of artificial fill will restore natural flow.			
3. Potentially affect water quality of the area?	\boxtimes			Mitigated; CA RWQCB consultation & permits			
4. Remain consistent with its river segment classification?	\boxtimes			Restoration of natural conditions is consistent with this segment's classification as "Recreational."			
5. Protect and enhance river ORVs?	\boxtimes			Restoration of natural conditions will protect and enhance river ORVs.			
6a. Fall within the River Protection Overlay?	\boxtimes						
6b. If "yes", is it consistent with conditions of the River Protection Overlay?	\boxtimes			Restoration of natural conditions is consistent with RPO conditions.			
7. Remain consistent with the areas Management Zoning?	\boxtimes			Restoration of natural conditions is consistent with this areas management zoning as "2C-Day Use."			
8a. Fall on a tributary of a Wild and Scenic River?		\boxtimes					
8b. If 9a is "yes", will the project affect the Wild and Scenic River corridor?			\boxtimes				
8c. If 9a is "yes", will the project unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values?			\boxtimes				
If "yes" to questions 2, 9b, or 9c, then a WSRA S	Section	7 dete	ermina	tion must be completed and attached			
Mitigations and Conditions:	CCHOII	, act	zimma	tion must be completed and academed.			
	once h	v tha (¬∧ pv	VOCB and the US ACOE that the projects will not			
Issuance of this CE is conditional on concurrence by the CA RWQCB and the US ACOE that the projects will not							

1. Issuance of this CE is conditional on concurrence by the CA RWQCB and the US ACOE that the projects will not have measurable environmental impacts and the issuance of any necessary permits by these agencies.

I. NEPA Analysis and Approval Conditions

When implemented as detailed in the project description and following all Project Mitigations and Conditions listed below, this project meets the terms and conditions of a categorical exclusion to NEPA.

Applicable Categorical Exclusion:

DO12 E(4) - Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions when the removal has no potential for environmental impacts, including impacts to cultural landscapes or archeological resources.

Project Mitigations and Conditions:

1. None

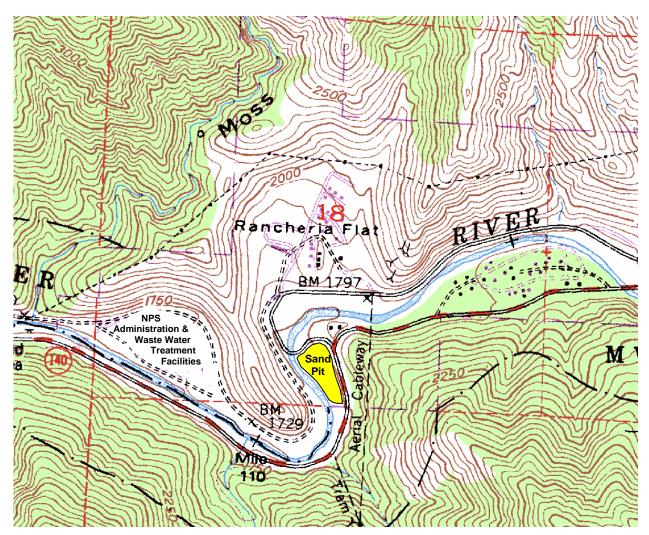
This project has been reviewed in accordance with the above criteria and it has been determined that the project will result in no or minimal environmental effects. Therefore, it is categorically excluded from further environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Additionally, the necessary compliance coordination has been completed with regard to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

//GWColliver//	1/23/06
Compliance Specialist	Date
//Mark A Butler//	1/23/06
Compliance Program Manager	Date
//Bill Delaney//	1/25/06
Chief, Project Management	Date

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.

Attachment A

Greenemeyer Sand Pit Vicinity Map



1 of 8

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

- 1. Project Title & ID: Merced River Greenemeyer Sand Pit River Corridor Restoration 2006-010 (13932)
- 2. Project Manager: Lisa Acree
- 3. Project Description: YOSE proposes to restore eight acres of highly-valued low-elevation floodplain habitat along the Merced River. Over the past three decades, YOSE used the floodplain site for sand extraction and maintenance staging. Today, fill and spoil materials fill all but one braided river channel, significantly obstructing flow. YOSE will remove artificial fill and revegetate with native vegetation. The result will be a riparian floodplain community with a functional network of braided river channels. Riparian habitat at the project site is particularly valued because California has lost 89% of its riparian woodlands, and areas below 3,300 feet have the greatest loss of riparian vegetation in the Sierra Nevada.
- 4. Project Location and Area of Potential Effect: El Portal; El Portal Archeological District.

5. Attached Sensitive* Information	Yes	No	Explanation/Source/Notes
a. Maps	X		GIS arch data
b. Drawings			
c. Site Plans			
d. Photographs			
e. Sample			
f. List of Materials			
g. Other (Explain)			

^{*} Sensitive documents not for duplication or distribution beyond park management, subject matter experts, and the project statutory compliance file.

B. DESCRIPTION OF EFFECTS

	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Notes
1. Has the Area of Potential Effect been surveyed to identify cultural resources? If Yes, provide reference for the Survey (s).	X			YOSE1975AC; El Portal Archaeological District, Old El Portal Historic Cultural Landscape
Would the proposed action affect a known cultural resource?		X		

2. List all Cultural Resources in the Area of	Affected?		Explanation/Note
Potential Effect:	Yes	No	Explanation/1vote
a. El Portal Archaeological District		X	No recorded sites in the project area, which is comprised of fill.

3. List resources in the Area of Potential	Affected?		
Effect to which American Indians attach cultural and religious significance:	Yes	No	Explanation/Note
a. El Portal Traditional Cultural Landscape	X		Need to determine if traditional plant resources are in the project area, and avoid them.

4. The proposed action will:	Yes	No	N/A	Explanation/Note
Destroy, remove, or alter features or elements from a historic structure		X		
• Replace historic features/elements in kind		X		
 Add nonhistoric features/elements to a historic structure 		X		
 Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (including terrain) 		X		
 Add nonhistoric features/elements (including visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape 		X		
Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain	X			
 Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible, or alter associated terrain 	X			Potentially
Begin or contribute to the deterioration of historic fabric, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources	X			Potentially
 Involve a real property transaction affecting historic cultural properties (i.e., the exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures) 		X		
Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources	X			
• Other				

5. Describe any measures that are incorporated as part of this project that will be taken to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of prehistoric or historic fabric, setting, integrity, or data:

The project managers will meet with cultural resource specialists prior to project initiation to identify resources that must be avoided and left in place.

Checklist Preparer: Jeannette Simons Date: 1/23/06

Title: Historic Preservation Officer

C. SPECIALIST SECTION

Specialists: Your comments here (or attached) show that you have reviewed this proposal for conformity with requirements of *National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106*; with the 1995 *Servicewide Programmatic Agreement* (if applicable); with applicable parts of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation*; with the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*; and have given your best professional advice about this project and the issues relevant to the Section 106 process, including identification and evaluation of historic properties and further consultation needs.

Archeologist Comments:	Name: Laura Kirn	Date:12/0805
Ground Disturbance Involved Assessment of Effect: No effect.	Yes: X No:	
	r Stipulations: Avoid adjacent archeological site.	
Signature of Archeologist: //signe	ed original on file//_	
Cultural Anthropologist Comments:	Name:	Date:
Assessment of Effect:		
Recommendations for Conditions or	r Stipulations:	
Signature of Cultural Anthropologis	st:	
Curator Comments:	Name:	Date:
Assessment of Effect:		
Recommendations for Conditions or	r Stipulations:	
Signature of Curator:		

Historian Comments:	Name: Charles Palmer	Date:12/08/2005			
Assessment of Effect: No adverse effect . Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: See conditions by archeologist					
Signature of Historian: //signed or	iginal on file//				
Historic Architect Comments:	Name:	Date:			
Assessment of Effect: Recommendations for Conditions or					
Signature of Historic Architect:					
Historic Landscape Architect Comments:	Name:	Date:			
Assessment of Effect: Recommendations for Conditions or	· Stipulations:				
Signature of Historic Landscape Arc	chitect:				

Preservation Specialist Comments:	Name: Doug Martin	Date:12/08/2005			
Assessment of Effect: Recommendations for Conditions	s or Stipulations: Retain any rem	naining historic features.			
Signature of Preservation Special	ist: <u>//signed original on file//</u>				
Native American Liaison Comments:	Name: Jeannette Simons	Date:12/19/2005			
Assessment of Effect: No adverse effect. Recommendations for Conditions or Stipulations: We will consult with AICMC in January, 2006. Follow-up to learn results.					
Signature of Native American Lia	nison: <u>//signed original on file//</u>				
	Name:	Date:			
Comments:					
Assessment of Effect:					
Recommendations for Conditions	s or Stipulations:				
Signature of	::				

D. RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE DIVISION AND PARK 106 COORDINATOR REVIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review by specialists: The appropriate subject-matter experts have reviewed the project and entered their comments and recommendations in Section C, above.

The foregoing assessment is adequate: the proposed action is consistent with all applicable NPS

	nagement policies, standards, guidelines, or US DOI standards and guidelines, Rehabilitation of toric Buildings, or others, and incorporates measures to avoid Adverse Effects.
Re	riewed and Accepted by:
Sig	nature: //Niki Nicholas// Date: 12/14/06
	Chief of Resources Management & Science Division
2.	Assessment of Effects: No advese effect.
3.	Compliance Requirements: The following is the park's assessment of Section 106 process needs and requirements for this undertaking.
	Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation
	Consultation under 36 CFR is needed subsequent to the preparation of this form and its review by appropriate cultural resource management advisors.
	Undertaking related to the 1995 NPS Programmatic Agreement
	The above action meets all conditions for a programmatic exclusion under Stipulation IV of the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement.
	Plan-Related Undertaking
	Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 1995 NPS programmatic agreement and 36 CFR Part 800.
	Undertaking Related to Another Agreement
	The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under a document such as a statewide agreement written in accordance with 37 CFR Part 800.7 or counterpart regulations.
	Agreement:
	Flood-Recovery Related Undertaking
	The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the letter-based agreement between the NPS, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Council for Historic Preservation for "Highwater 97" flood repair and recovery
	Undertaking Related to the 1999 Yosemite Programmatic Agreement
	The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under the park's 1999 programmatic agreement for planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance; the undertaking meets the stipulations identified in Article VII.C.2.

4. Project Stipulations and Conditions

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effects above is consistent with 36 CFR 800 criteria of effect or to mitigate potential adverse effects:

- 1. Consultation with AICMC in January, 2006.
- 2. Avoid adjacent archeological site.
- 3. Protect and preserve historic features/materials in situ.

Recommended 1	bv	Park	Section	106	Coordinator:
---------------	----	------	---------	-----	--------------

Name:	Jeannette Simons			
Title:	Historic Preservation Officer			
Signature:	//signed original on file//	Date:	1/11/06	

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to NPS Management Policies and NPS-28 and I approve the recommendations, stipulations, and conditions noted in Section B of this form.

Signature of Superintendent:	//R Kevin Cann, acting//
-	-
Date:	12/26/06

The signed original of this document is on file at the Environmental Planning and Compliance Office in Yosemite National Park.